

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

2023/2024

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Review date	10/2023	
Next Review	10/2024	

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1 Aims

The aims of relationship and sex education (RSE) at South Axholme Academy are to:

- Provide a framework in which sensitive discussions can take place
- Prepare students for puberty, and give them an understanding of sexual development and the importance of health and hygiene
- Help students develop feelings of self-respect, confidence and empathy
- Create a positive culture around issues of sexuality and relationships
- Teach students the correct vocabulary to describe themselves and their bodies

South Axholme Academy believes that relationship and sex education (RSE) makes an essential contribution to every student's health, wellbeing and preparation for adult life in society. Effective relationship and sex education is essential if young people are to make responsible and well-informed decisions about their lives. A comprehensive programme of RSE provides accurate information about the body, reproduction, sex, and sexual health. It also gives children and young people essential skills for building positive, enjoyable, respectful and non-exploitative relationships and staying safe both on and offline. It is an integral part of the PSHE programme within the Academy and will support students to be ready for adult life.

2 Statutory requirements

At South Axholme we believe that our students should be 'Ready, Respectful and Safe' so RSE is important to us. We have regard to [guidance](#) issued by the secretary of state as outlined in section 403 of the [Education Act 1996](#).

At South Axholme Academy we teach RSE as set out in this policy.

3 Policy development

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, students and parents. The consultation and policy development process involved the following steps:

Review – a member of staff pulled together all relevant information including relevant national and local guidance

Staff consultation – all school staff were given the opportunity to look at the policy and make recommendations

Parent/stakeholder consultation – parents and any interested parties were invited to attend a meeting about the policy

Student consultation – we investigated what exactly students want from their RSE

Ratification – once amendments were made, the policy was shared with governors and ratified

4 Definition

RSE is about the emotional, social and cultural development of students, and involves learning about relationships, sexual health, sexuality, healthy lifestyles, diversity and personal identity.

RSE involves a combination of sharing information and exploring issues and values.

RSE is not about the promotion of sexual activity.

5 Curriculum

Our curriculum is set out as per Appendix 1 but there may need to be adaptations made to reflect need and the audience to whom the curriculum is being delivered.

We have developed the curriculum in consultation with parents, students and staff taking into account the needs and feelings of students. If students ask questions outside the scope of our curriculum, teachers will respond in an appropriate manner, so students are fully informed and don't seek answers online

6 Delivery of RSE

RSE is taught within the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education curriculum that is in General Studies. Biological aspects of RSE are taught within the science curriculum, and other aspects are included in religious education (RE).

Students also receive stand-alone sex education sessions delivered by a trained health professional. RSE sessions will reflect the age and maturity of the students and meet the particular needs of both boys and girls.

Across all Key Stages, students will be supported with developing the following skills:

Attitudes and Values

- learning the importance of values and individual conscience and moral considerations.
- learning the value of family life and stable loving relationships for the nurture of children.
- learning the value of respect, love and care.
- exploring, considering and understanding moral dilemmas.
- developing critical thinking as part of decision making.

Personal and Social Skills

- learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively.
- developing self-respect and empathy for others.
- learning to make choices based on understanding of differences and with an absence of prejudice.
- developing an appreciation of the consequences of choices made.
- managing conflict.
- learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse.

Knowledge and Understanding

- learning and understanding physical development at appropriate stages.
- understanding human sexuality, reproduction, sexual health, emotions and relationships.
- learning about contraception and the range of local and national health advice, contraception and support services (including education about HIV and AIDS - and other sexually transmitted diseases).
- supporting students to make wise and informed choices regarding sexual activity.
- developing an awareness of sex and the law.
- developing an understanding of the diversity of relationships and sexuality.
- an understanding of the difference between consenting and exploitative relationships.
- understanding internet safety issues such as sexting and sharing of images.

7 Roles and responsibilities

The Academy Oversight Committee will approve the RSE policy and hold the Principal to account for its implementation.

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that RSE is taught consistently across the academy, and for managing requests to withdraw students from non-statutory/non-science components of RSE (see section 8).

Staff are responsible for:

- Delivering RSE in a sensitive way
- Modelling positive attitudes to RSE
- Monitoring progress
- Responding to the needs of individual students
- Responding appropriately to students whose parents wish them to be withdrawn from the non-statutory/non-science components of RSE

Staff do not have the right to opt out of teaching RSE. Staff who have concerns about teaching RSE are encouraged to discuss this with the Principal.

8 Parents' right to withdraw

Parents do have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of any sex education provided.

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from the teaching of the biological aspects of human growth and reproduction that are included in the National Curriculum for science.

Requests for withdrawal should be put in writing and addressed to the Principal. A copy of withdrawal requests will be placed in the student's educational record. The Principal will discuss the request with parents and take appropriate action.

Alternative work will be given to students who are withdrawn from RSE.

9 Training

Staff are trained on the delivery of RSE as part of their induction and it is included in our continuing professional development calendar.

The Principal will also invite visitors from outside the school, such as school nurses or sexual health professionals, to provide support and training to staff teaching RSE.

10 Monitoring Arrangements

The Personal Development Lead will liaise annually with the other curriculum areas to ensure that the syllabus is being covered and that the biological and emotional elements are properly co-ordinated.

The SAX Mindset days (used to deliver aspects of the RSE curriculum) will be reviewed annually and evaluated by students and staff.

The Senior Leadership Team will monitor the implementation of this policy through whole school quality assurance procedures.

Appendix 1

	Lesson Themes
Year 7	Changing Friendships Healthy Relationships Healthy Online Friendships Puberty and Emotional Changes Menstrual Wellbeing Managing Conflict
Year 8	Introduction to Consent Relationship Values

	<p>Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Influences on Relationship Expectations Consent – Avoiding Assumptions Introduction to Contraception</p>
Year 9	<p>Respectful Relationship Behaviours Freedom and Capacity to Consent Sexual Health Contraception Domestic Abuse – Myths or Realities Sexual Harassment Managing the End of Relationships</p>
Year 10	<p>The Role of Intimacy and Pleasure The Impact of Pornography Pressure, Persuasion and Coercion Managing Relationship Conflict and Breakups Addressing Abuse Long Term Commitment</p> <p>Mindset Day Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertility, Contraception and Sexual Health • Pregnancy Outcomes
Year 11	<p><i>Year 11 relationship lessons are taught through big question themes which explore the viewpoints of different religions in our society.</i></p> <p>What is the purpose of family and marriage? Should people be allowed to divorce? Should people have sex outside of marriage? Should same sex marriage be allowed? Should people cohabit? Does everyone have the right to contraception? Do men and women have equal rights?</p>

*Our RSE reflects the PSHE Association Framework

IET reserves the right to make amendments to this policy at any time without notice